

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 1 on page 34 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figure 1a illustrates a general process for obtaining β -L-erythropentafurano nucleosides (β -L-dN) using L-ribose or L-xylose as a starting material. Figure 1b 1 and 1e are~~ is a non-limiting illustrative examples example according to the present invention of the synthesis of 3'- and 5'-valinyl esters of 2'-deoxy- β -L-cytidine (β -L-dC) from 2'-deoxy- β -L-cytidine, respectively.